



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

667 Safeguard Street Suite 100

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860

Phone: (808) 474-0272 Fax: (808) 474-0269

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 25, 2009

USS Bremerton Project Off to Excellent Start

By Katie Vanes
Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii— The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard USS *Bremerton* (SSN 698) project team started its dry-docking restricted availability (DSRA) Nov. 7.

The *Bremerton* project got off to a superior start. System shut-down was completed 17 days ahead of schedule Oct. 23, which allowed production work to start early. “The Code 246 nonnuclear testing division, along with ship’s force, did a great job preparing and opening system take-down work authorization forms (WAFs),” said Project Superintendent Miles Kotoshirodo.

Nonnuclear Chief Test Engineer Greg Reyes highlighted the determination and refreshing enthusiasm of the recently hired engineers in the nonnuclear testing division such as Aukai Kent, Jeffrey Kuhs, Marissa Nago and Christopher Lambert who are learning from the more seasoned engineers. “We’ve been rotating key positions from previous DSRA’s, such as work control manager, to give people experience in these positions,” he said.

Reyes added that it was quite a feat to finish the USS *Buffalo* (SSN 715) DSRA and transition right into planning for *Bremerton*. “Partnership between production and

ship's force has been exceptional," he said. "This ship's project team really has some of the best and brightest team members. We're heading in a positive direction for this project."

The intended work on *Bremerton* includes propeller shaft replacement, auxiliary seawater (ASW) hull and backup valve restoration and torpedo tube repairs. The ship will also undergo refrigerant plant repairs and significant internal work, including fuel oil tanks blasting, repairs and painting.

Kotoshirodo explained that transitioning key project managers from *Buffalo* to *Bremerton* was a significant advantage in terms of lessons learned, strategies and teamwork. He added that the project team has embraced Learning Organization disciplines and Lean principles, and has carried over positive energy from *Buffalo* to help meet the challenges on *Bremerton*, including completion of the project on or ahead of schedule, with improved cost performance and reduced overtime.

Integrating contractors into the Shipyard workforce is also crucial to accomplishing *Bremerton*'s goals, according to Kotoshirodo. "It's important for them to understand our work and us to understand theirs," he said. "With the continued support from all personnel, *Bremerton* will be added to the recent successes at the Shipyard."

The Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,800. It has an operating budget of more than \$650 million, of which more than \$426 million is payroll for civilian employees. For more information on the Shipyard, visit

www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl.